

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (twice amended) An immunostimulating composition comprising [encapsulating] encapsulated microspheres comprised of (a) a biodegradable-biocompatible poly(DL-lactide-co-glycolide) as the bulk matrix produced by a solvent evaporation process wherein the molecular weight of the copolymer is between 4,000 to 100,000 daltons and (b) an immunogenic substance consisting of a conformationally native subunit of chronic intracellular pathogen which, in the course of natural infection with that pathogen, is exposed to the host immune system on the surface of free pathogen and/or pathogen-infected cells.

Claim 3. (Twice Amended) The immunostimulating composition [compositions] described in claims 1 wherein the immunogenic substance is a native (oligomeric) HIV-1 envelope antigen that is conformationally stabilized by the polymer matrix and serves to elicit in animals the production of HIV specific cytotoxic T lymphocytes and antibodies preferentially reactive against native HIV-1 envelope antigen.

Claim 4. (Amended) The immunostimulating composition [compositions] described in claim 3 wherein the amount of said immunogenic substance within the microcapsule comprises between 0.5% to 5.0% of the weight of the composition.

Claim 5. (Twice amended) The immunostimulating composition [compositions] described in claim 4, wherein the relative ratio between the amount of the lactide:glycolide components of said matrix is within the range of 52:48 to 0:100.

Claim 6. (Amended) The immunostimulating composition [compositions] described in claim 5 wherein the molecular weight of said copolymer is between 4,000 to 50,000 daltons.

Claim 9. (Amended) The immunostimulating composition [compositions] described in claim 5, employed as a mucosal vaccine wherein the size of more than 50% (by volume) of said vaccine microspheres is between 5 to 10 microns in diameter.

Claim 13 (twice amended) The immunostimulating composition [compositions] described in claim 7 employed as a parenterally administered vaccine wherein the diameter size of said vaccine microspheres lies between 1 nanometer [nanogram] and 20 microns.

Claim 14 (Amended) The immunostimulating composition [compositions] described in claim 6 employed as a mucosal vaccine wherein the size of more than 50% (by volume) of said vaccine microspheres is between 5 to 10 microns in diameter.

Claim 15-33 (Cancelled)